

## Message Text

PAGE 01 SUVA 00293 061929 Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 ACDA-19

AEC-11 SCI-06 GAC-01 IO-12 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 /139 W

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R 061916 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1971

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 293

ALSO FOR USIA

EO11652 N/ A

TAGS PARM PFOR FJ TN

SUBJ: PUBLIC REACTION IN PUBLIC ISLANDS TO PROPOSED FRENCH  
NUCLEAR TESTS

1. RECENT ACTIONS GOA AND GONZ TO CONVINCE FRANCE TO ABANDON  
NUCLEAR TESTS IN PACIFIC HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE  
IN FIJIAN AND TONGAN PRESS FOR PAST MONTH OR MORE. SINCE  
SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING APIA SUBJECT HAS BEEN GIVEN  
FRONT PAGE TREATMENT VIRTUALLY DAILY, OFTEN AS LEAD  
HEADLINE STORY.

2. COVERAGE RADIO FIJI HAS BEEN OF EQUAL INTENSITY IN ALL  
THREE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS.

3. TENOR HEADLINES AND THEME OF ARTICLES HAS FOCUSED ON  
FRENCH DISREGARD HEALTH AND SAFETY ISLAND PEOPLE AND DISDAIN  
FOR INTERESTS PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS.

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PAGE 02 SUVA 00293 061929 Z

RM RECENTLY PUBLISHED AUSTRALIAN REPORT THAT FRENCH  
TESTS HAVE CONTAMINATED WIDESPREAD SECTIONS AUSTRALIA GIVEN  
PROMINENT COVERAGE.

5. IN PAST WEEK OF THEME OF " DAVID VS GOLIATH" DEVELOPED  
IN FIJI TIMES.

6. FIJI TIMES EDITORIAL MAY FIVE SUPPORTS FIJI GOVERNMENT  
DECISION SUPPORT GOA AND GONZ MOVES TAKE FRANCE TO WORLD  
COURT TO HALT TESTS.

7. TO DATE MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC REATION HAS BEEN DEVOID  
OF EMOTIONALISM OR SENSATIONALISM HOWEVER TOPIC IS SUBJECT  
FAR SIDER PUBLIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE THAN USUAL IN FIJI.  
THERE IS ALSO VIRTUAL UNANIMITY IN PRESS, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC  
OPPOSITION TNG THAT WE HAVE IN THE U. S. DELEGATION  
MEMBERS OF THE U. S. CONGRESS OF GREAT DISTINCTION. IN HIS REPORT  
TO THE CONGRESS LAST WEEK, PRESIDENT NIXON SUGGESTED THAT OUR  
LEGISLATORS MAKE SUCH VISITS WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE, AT THE  
SAME TIME HE ANNOUNCED HIS OWN INTENTION TO TRAVEL TO LATIN  
AMERICA AT LEAST ONCE THIS YEAR.

WE COME TOGETHER AT A TIME WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMY AND THE RELATIONS OF ALL NATIONS ARE UNDERGOING  
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE. THIS CHANGE BRINGS NEW CHALLENGES--  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR NATIONS, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLEC-  
TIVELY.

IT IS NOW WIDELY RECOGNIZED THAT ECONOMIC RELATION-  
SHIPS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL NATIONS  
HAVE UNDERGONE A FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFORMATION-- GREATER THAN  
ALMOST ANY NATION WAS WILLING TO ADMIT LESS THAN TWO YEARS  
AGO. AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE UNRIVALED ECONOMIC STRENGTH  
OF THE UNITED STATES ALLOWED US TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS WITH LITTLE CONCERN FOR THEIR EFFECT  
ON OUR OWN ECONOMY. AT ONE POINT WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE  
CAPITAL TRANSFERS REPRESENTING AS MUCH AS TWO AND A HALF  
PERCENT OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT TO COUNTRIES WHO  
NEEDED IT AND COULD USE IT WELL.

NOW, HOWEVER, ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND POWER IS MORE  
WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AMONG COUNTRIES AND, VIEWING THE MATTER  
IN GLOBAL TERMS, THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN FOR THE BETTER. MANY  
INDUSTRIAL NATIONS HAVE PER CAPITA INCOMES APPROACHING THAT  
OF THE UNITED STATES. MANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
HAVE BROKEN OUT OF THEIR POVERTY CYCLES AND MADE RAPID  
STRIDES IN IMPROVING THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING. THE LESS-  
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PAGE 03 KINGST 01465 01 OF 03 062034 Z

DEVELOPED WORLD, AND LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS IN PARTICULAR,  
ARE NOW CONSCIOUS OF THEIR NEEDS, THEIR OPPORTUNITIES AND THEIR  
ABILITY TO PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

THE REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN WHICH  
WE ARE NOW ENGAGED MUST REFLECT THESE CHANGES IN UNDER-

LYING ECONOMIC REALITIES. RATHER THAN RESIST NEEDED CHANGE, WE MUST RE- EXAMINE OUR PRACTICES AND RESHAPE OUR ECONOMIC ROLES AND INSTITUTIONS. OUR AIM SHOULD BE TO ASSURE THAT OUR COMMON INTEREST IN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND POLITICAL HARMONY IS SERVED BY CHANGE.

IT IS ESSENTIAL IN THIS PROCESS FOR DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER, FOR ECONOMIC REFORM CAN AND WILL BENEFIT ALL OUR NATIONS AND-- MOST IMPORTANTLY-- PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICA PEOPLE CAN BE MOST READILY FULFILLED. THAT IS WHY THE UNITED STATES HAS WELCOMED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AS WELL AS OTHER CONTINENTS IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF 20.

TWO MAJOR REALIGNMENTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE DOLLAR AND THE CURRENCIES OF OTHER NATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. PRESENT RATES NOW REFLECT THE BASIC ECONOMIC REALITIES AND A MAJOR SOURCE OF INSTABILITY IN THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN REMOVED. REALISTIC EXCHANGE RATES BRING DIRECT BENEFITS TO LATIN AMERICA.

MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES CHOSE TO FOLLOW THE DOLLAR AT THE TIME OF THE REALIGNMENTS. SINCE LATIN AMERICA IS THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED OF THE DEVELOPING REGIONS OF THE WORLD, THE REGION'S COMPETITIVE POSITION IN WORLD TRADE HAS BEEN IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. THE INITIAL FIGURES ON TRADE AND THE INCREASE IN RESERVES SEEM TO INDICATE THAT LATIN AMERICA HAS SEIZED AND PROFITED BY THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY.

THERE ARE OTHER FUNDAMENTAL WAYS IN WHICH DEVELOPMENT IS AND WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE SUCCESS OF REFORM OF THE MONETARY SYSTEM. IT IS CLEARLY DISADVANTAGEOUS, BOTH TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO THE UNITED STATES, TO HAVE A MONETARY SYSTEM WHICH PERMITS LARGE AND PERSISTENT SURPLUSES OR DEFICITS. LARGE PERSISTENT IMBALANCES LEAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 KINGST 01465 01 OF 03 062034 Z

TO A PROLIFERATION OF CONTROLS ON TRADE AND CAPITAL WHICH SLOW THE GROWTH OF WORLD PRODUCTION AND AFFECT THE FLOW OF DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL. SUCH IMBALANCES ALSO LEAD TO LARGE AND DISRUPTIVE EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES. THE NEW SYSTEM MUST ASSURE THAT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ADJUSTMENT TAKES PLACE MORE PROMPTLY AND SMOOTHLY AND IN AN OUTWARD LOOKING WAY-- A SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION, NOT CONTRACTION.

THERE IS A CERTAIN NOSTALGIA AMONG SOME COUNTRIES FOR THE OLD FIXED- RATE SYSTEM, WHERE PARITIES WERE SUPPOSED TO CHANGE ONLY RARELY, AND DID SO AFTER GREAT PRESSURE HAD BEEN BUILT UP AS AN EXTREME DEFICIT OR SURPLUS DEVELOPED. AS A RESULT, CHANGES TENDED TO BE LARGE AND DISRUPTIVE. THE FEAR EXISTS THAT SOMEHOW MORE FLEXIBLE RATES WILL LEAD TO GREATER

UNCERTAINTY AND INSTABILITY IN THE SYSTEM, WITH ADVERSE EFFECTS  
ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE PROCESS OF  
DEVELOPMENT. I THINK THE EVIDENCE IS HEAVILY ON THE  
OTHER SIDE.

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